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For Immediate Release

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## **2004 Nevada's Brownfields Conference Set**

### **Land Recycling Program Making Strides in Silver State**

RENO, Nev. – Nevada's second annual Brownfields Conference will be held in Reno May 18, at John Ascuaga's Nugget. Sponsored by the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, the conference will help participants from across the state learn how to finance and manage Brownfields projects with the goal of cleaning up polluted properties in their communities and converting them back to productive use.

"Our goal is to create partnerships that improve the lives of Nevadans, enhance our economic climate and improve the quality of our communities," said Tim Murphy, Supervisor of the Nevada Brownfields Program.

The conference will feature speakers from state, regional and national agencies involved in the Brownfields Program. Subject matter will include tips on preparing loan and grant applications, Brownfields redevelopment legal issues, new insurance tools and relevant state and federal legislation issues.

Murphy predicted that more than 100 representatives from local governments, redevelopment agencies, quasi-government agencies, regional councils, development companies, real estate firms and non-profit entities would attend the conference. Registration fees are \$75 for representatives of public agencies and \$125 for those from private businesses, if received prior to May 1. After May 1, the fees increase to \$100 and \$150 respectively. Log on to [www.nvbrownfieldsconference.com](http://www.nvbrownfieldsconference.com) for more information.

The term "Brownfields" is commonly used to describe abandoned, idled or underused property with a real or perceived risk from environmental contamination. In the early 1990s, the problems associated with blighted commercial and industrial properties gained national attention, with more than 600,000 properties identified as abandoned or underused due to the suspicion of hazardous substance contamination. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) responded by creating this program that is locally based, encourages strong public-private partnerships, and promotes innovative and creative ways to turn the land into productive property.

Log on to [www.nvbrownfieldsconference.com](http://www.nvbrownfieldsconference.com) to register and to obtain information on speakers, agenda, and sponsorship opportunities. For specific questions, contact Simone McKnight at (866) 886-3820.